

**START**

Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
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NOV 18 1996

Ms. Donna Powaukec
Department Manager
Nez Perce Environmental Restoration
& Waste Management
P.O. Box 365
Lapwai, Idaho 83540-0365

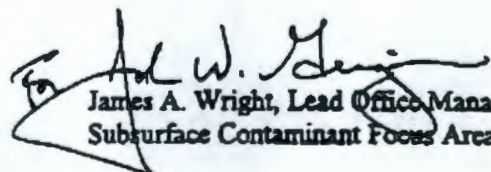
Dear Ms. Powaukec:

Thank you for your letter dated October 22, 1996, concerning the In-Situ Redox Manipulation Project being demonstrated at the Department of Energy (DOE) Hanford 100N Area. The Subsurface Contaminant Focus Area (SCFA) has reviewed the enclosures to the letter, and understands your concerns about the uncertainties surrounding the In-Situ Redox technology to adequately protect the Columbia River and its ecosystem.

It is the SCFA's goal to offer to its customers, in this case the Hanford Site, innovative technologies that are protective of human health and the environment. Since there remains some legitimate technical questions concerning the residual effects this technology may have on the Columbia River environment, as per Dr. Clyde Frank's letter to you dated 11/12/96 (enclosed), we have made arrangements for an independent Peer Review to be conducted to address the issues the Nez Perce have expressed to the DOE. This Peer Review is scheduled to be completed before the end of January 1997.

The Office of Science and Technology in cooperation with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers has formed a Peer Review Committee. This committee uses the services of the Institute for Regulatory Science to choose the reviewers and to conduct the reviews totally in the absence of DOE involvement. Should the Nez Perce wish to send a representative to observe the actual review, the DOE will be willing to make such a request through our Stakeholder Coordinator, Cindy Malencia. Ms. Malencia will forward your request to the Committee and explain to you the protocol. If you have further questions please contact Ms. Malencia at (803) 725-0263.

Sincerely


James A. Wright, Lead Office Manager
Subsurface Contaminant Focus Area

Enclosure: Frank letter dtd. 11/12/96

cc w/o Enclosure:
M. Heeb, EM-53
J. Hansen, RL ✓
S. Chamberlain, EM - 50
C. Malencia, DOE-SR

